

Security Information

Official Diary

Friday, 20 February 1953

1. Ascertained from Mr. Dulles that the briefing in preparation for the NSC meeting would be held as usual on Monday afternoon.

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2. At the morning meeting Mr. Dulles indicated a desire to give the background of the [REDACTED] situation at his next briefing of the NSC. [REDACTED] undertook to prepare this and I requested his office to insure that we obtained a copy so that we would be able to estimate the time for the remaining items. O/GI is preparing a review of the Berlin situation.

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3. At the morning meeting Mr. Dulles suggested that in the near future he and I should have a talk with [REDACTED] respecting the treatment of items to be brought to the President's attention.

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4. Also at the morning meeting, Mr. Dulles referred to me a letter from [REDACTED] containing a request for certain intelligence action. I explained that this letter was one of a series, and that we felt that requests of this nature should be honored only when they had the approval of the NSC. I undertook to draft a reply and to coordinate with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Later consulted [REDACTED] and he approved our proposed reply, suggesting, however, that Mr. Dulles consult Attorney General Brownell. Later in the day I reviewed this with [REDACTED].

5. Lunchd with [REDACTED] during which we covered the following points:

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a. I returned to [REDACTED] his memorandum respecting the inquiry from [REDACTED] relating to so-called "gadgets" in Moscow. As a result of a discussion with Mr. Dulles I requested that [REDACTED] ascertain from the inter-agency group dealing with this matter whether the offer of a [REDACTED] technician would be agreeable, so that Mr. Dulles could give a definitive answer to [REDACTED].

b. I advised [REDACTED] as to the background of the Defense request relating to brain-washing techniques.

c. [REDACTED] advised me of an Air Force proposal that the noise listening program be centered for coordination in NSA. This was an excellent development, paralleling the [REDACTED] organization in this field, which O/SI had been advocating for some time.

d. We commented briefly on the progress of SEC which, according to [REDACTED] seems to have settled most of its jurisdictional problems.

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6. At the morning meeting there was some discussion of NSC-143 during which Mr. Dulles indicated that Congressman Kersten would probably be inquiring into this field. As a result of this discussion I changed my prior plans and arranged with Mr. Amory to attend the afternoon session of the NSC Senior Staff on Monday.

7. Suggested to [REDACTED] receive on an Eyes Only basis copies of the operational cables containing intelligence now received by DD/I. He undertook to check with his people. Later [REDACTED] phoned and suggested that this might possibly be settled by greatly expediting PDs so that there would never be more than an hour's lapse on important matters. I explained that this would not entirely settle the problem, because there were many items of intelligence of which [REDACTED] and myself should be informed so that we could request the views of our own people. As to such items, it was not always necessary to have a source evaluation. We were prepared to assure FI that [REDACTED] would not make any inquiries as to sources on the basis of these cables. Nevertheless I recognized FI's desire to comment on source, since such comment often changed an alarming report into something that need not be dealt with. I favored a combination of expediting PDs and having the cables distributed to [REDACTED]. It was finally agreed that [REDACTED] would confer and I was prepared to agree to any arrangement that they worked out.

8. At the request of [REDACTED] ascertained that Mr. Dulles would open the [REDACTED] conference on USCIB matters on 2 March. Requested [REDACTED] to prepare appropriate remarks.

9. Obtained DCI's approval to having Mr. Amory attend the morning meeting.

10. Attended a showing of the Soviet BW film illustrating "confessions" of American airmen. After the meeting there was a discussion as to the responsibility for preparing an appropriate reply to Secretary of Defense's letter respecting action to be taken as to brain-washing techniques. It was agreed that the primary responsibility was that of [REDACTED] and that he would be assisted to any possible extent by the intra-agency committee set up under the chairmanship of [REDACTED] on which [REDACTED] sits. [REDACTED] at luncheon had expressed the view that this might require some major reorganization of O/SI but, after this meeting, I pointed out to him that it was primarily a problem of operational support. I do not feel that this should require any major reassignment of effort within O/SI. So far as possible the facilities of existing agencies should be employed.

11. [REDACTED] FBI liaison, consulted me with respect to a laboratory that had been called to our attention by [REDACTED]. I told Mr. [REDACTED] what I knew of the matter and also read to him my contemporaneous diary entries which conformed with the information that he had received from

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and [REDACTED] I undertook to make available to him copies of my diary entries on this point.

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12. Consulted with [REDACTED] on the O/CI memorandum relating to Gulf Oil's participation in oil shipments to the Haifa refineries. I had previously talked about this with Mr. Dulles who felt that this memorandum should not be transmitted to [REDACTED] until State had had a chance to determine the action to be recommended. I pointed out that CIA had performed its function by including this item in the CIB. As an alternative to sending the memorandum to [REDACTED] I requested that it be included in the packet dispatched to [REDACTED] State. I also pointed out as a general principle that CIA should be alert not to over-emphasize highly delicate matters of policy until the responsible Departments had an opportunity to recommend a course of action. This it seemed to me was entirely different from the Li Mi situation where, after having been fully informed, the policy agency took no action while an extremely dangerous situation was arising. In the case of the intelligence respecting [REDACTED], the course of action recommended in the cable in question might have even more grave repercussions on the part of the Arabs vis-a-vis the U.S., since [REDACTED] might request the U.S. to substitute Venezuelan oil for that presently being secured from Kuwait. Moreover, the [REDACTED] might regard an American approach on this subject as tantamount to an effort to increase the business of American companies at British expense.

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13. Discussed with [REDACTED] our proposals for office reorganization which will go into effect as of next Thursday. I emphasized that if there were only a single briefing officer in this office, O/CI would have to insure that he was kept up to date by consultation with the various area analysts, etc. etc. without having to visit O/CI.

ADC

14. Requested Dr. Guthe to make an appointment to see me early next week.

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15. Now that Mr. Amory has been designated AD/DI, requested [REDACTED] to limit dissemination of office papers to me to the following:

- a. NSC matters.
- b. Substantive intelligence.
- c. Important items relating to international or inter-agency coordination.
- d. USCIB matters.

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